



Minors, Youth and Young Adults in Shelter and Housing

In January of 2012, The Community Partnership completed the "Point in Time" enumeration. The population surveyed included persons living in Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing and unsheltered homeless persons throughout the District of Columbia.

There were 13 unaccompanied minors counted during Point in Time. Ranging in age from 13 to 17, each of these individuals was residing in shelters operated by Sasha Bruce Youthworks on the night of the count. No persons under the age of 18 were counted by outreach teams counting unsheltered persons.

Some 127 unaccompanied persons between the ages of 18 and 24 were also counted during the enumeration. While six of these persons were unsheltered on the night of PIT, the remainder was counted among those being served in shelter and housing programs.

A total of 334 persons between the ages of 18 and 24 were counted in programs that serve homeless families; 207 of these persons were designated as the head of household being served. Seventy-four of the families 207 families with young adult household heads were residing at DC General, accounting for 37 percent of families residing at that facility.

Responses to the needs assessment survey conducted at point in time varied somewhat between the unaccompanied young adults and the young adults that were heads of family households.

Disabling Conditions

One in five unaccompanied young adults reported histories of substance abuse or mental illness or experiencing both concurrently, compared to one in ten among young adults in families. Unaccompanied homeless youth were twice as likely to report physical disabilities or chronic health problems than their counterparts in family programs.

Domestic Violence

Six percent sited of unaccompanied young adults and one quarter of 18-24 year olds in families reported histories of domestic violence, often citing it as the reason for their homelessness.

Foster Care

Fifteen percent of all young adults in shelter or housing stated that they were in foster care at some point in the past.

Income

Just four percent of young adults in families reported that they had no income, with two-thirds stating that TANF was their family's primary income source. More than half of unaccompanied young adults reported that they had no income of any kind. Median income among both groups was just over \$500 per month.